

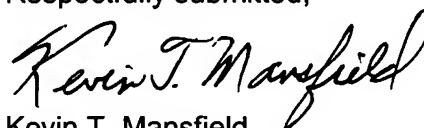
REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-21 are the only claims pending. Original claims 1 and 5-21 have been amended to eliminate multiple ranges, to reduce filing fees by eliminating multiple dependency and to provide minor clarification.

In light of the proviso in claim 1, it is clear that the cross-linking agent is only required in the homopolymers; it is optional in the copolymers.

Applicants aver that the claims are now in better form for examination. An Action on the merits of the claims is respectfully awaited. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin T. Mansfield
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,635

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation
Patent Department
540 White Plains Road
P.O. Box 2005
Tarrytown, NY 10591-9005
(914) 785-7127

KTM\22797PA

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